

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 36 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. 2002/0006571 (Suda et al), is respectfully traversed.

As recited in Claim 36, the invention is a method of manufacturing a liquid developer, comprising steps of:

preparing an electrically insulating solvent;

adding to the electrically insulating solvent a plurality of resin particles insoluble in the electric insulation solvent and a plurality of colorant particles; and

forming a surface portion and an inside portion of toner particles, a first density of the colorant particles per unit volume of the surface portion being larger than a second density of the colorant particles per unit volume of the inside portion.

Suda et al discloses a liquid toner composition prepared by dispersing toner particles consisting essentially of a colorant and a resin in a carrier liquid, the resultant composition forming an electrorheological fluid. Suda et al further discloses attaching to or impregnating in at least a surface portion of the toner particle, inorganic fine particles formed of, for example, silica, silica which is made hydrophobic, titanium oxide or titanium hydroxide ([0012]). As admitted by the Examiner in the parent application, these inorganic fine particles are generally white colorants. The Examiner has made some findings about Example 1 of Suda et al, although their relevance is not evident. Given the Examiner's finding that Suda et al's inorganic particles are inclusive of the presently-recited colorants (to which Applicants disagree), Suda et al simply require that the inorganic particles be attached or impregnated **in at least** the surface region. Suda et al does not exclude both their colorant and inorganic particles being uniformly dispersed throughout the toner particle. Indeed, this appears to be the most likely scenario for Example 1.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 34 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to satisfy the description requirement thereof, is respectfully traversed. Indeed, the rejection is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that it be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 26, 36 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. The rejection as to Claim 26 is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Regarding Claims 36 and 37, there is no omission of essential steps. The recited "forming . . ." step **includes** the milling processing described in the specification at page 7, lines 15-17. Each succeeding step is linked to the recited preceding step. In addition, note the cases cited in MPEP 2172.01, cited by the Examiner, that oppose the notion that there be interdependency between steps to avoid running afoul of the statute. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The objection to Claims 30, 31, 35 and 37 is respectfully traversed. Indeed, the objection is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that it be withdrawn.

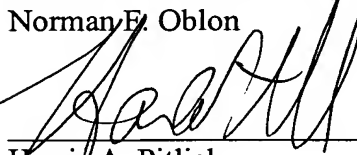
Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of Claims 12, 13, 20-25, 27-29 and 32. Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are

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now in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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